

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. An image information decoder which receives a plurality of coded image compression information and outputs the information as one image data, the apparatus comprising:

a dividing means for dividing the plurality of image compression information;

a decoding means for decoding each of the divided image compression information and extracting output time information indicating a time when image data obtained by the decoding is to be outputted;

a storage means for storing the image data and output time information;

a reference time information generating means for generating reference time information;

an output image selecting means for making a comparison between the reference time information and output time information and writing, to a storage means, selection information intended for selecting, as an extraction destination, an area where there is stored one, having an output time nearest to the reference time, of image data including earlier output time information than the reference time information; and

a displaying means for extracting image data according to the selection information recorded in the storage means and displaying the image data as one image data synchronously with the reference time.

2. The apparatus as set forth in claim 1, wherein:

the displaying means has a variable number of display image frames per unit time; and

the reference time information generating means receives a signal indicative of the number of display image frames and varies the reference time information according to the signal.

3. The apparatus as set forth in claim 1, wherein the image compression information complies with the MPEG-4 standard.

4. The apparatus as set forth in claim 3, wherein the output time information is PTS (presentation time stamp).

5. The apparatus as set forth in claim 1, wherein the output time information is calculated by the decoding means as a reciprocal number of the number of frames received per unit time.

6. An image information decoding method in which a plurality of coded image compression information is received and outputted as one image data, the method comprising the steps of:

- dividing the plurality of image compression information;

- decoding each of the divided image compression information and extracting output time information indicating a time when image data obtained by the decoding is to be outputted;

- storing the image data and output time information;

- generating reference time information;

- making a comparison between the reference time information and output time information and writing, to a storage means, selection information intended for selecting, as an extraction destination, an area where there is stored one, having an output time nearest to the reference time, of image data including earlier output time

information than the reference time information; and

extracting image data according to the selection information recorded in the storage means and displaying, on a displaying means, the image data as one image data synchronously with the reference time.

7. The method as set forth in claim 6, wherein:

in the displaying step, the number of display image frames per unit time, displayable on the displaying means, is variable; and

in the reference time information generating step, a signal indicative of the number of display image frames is received and the reference time information is varied according to the signal.

8. The method as set forth in claim 6, wherein the image compression information complies with the MPEG-4 standard.

9. The method as set forth in claim 8, wherein the output time information is PTS (presentation time stamp).

10. The method as set forth in claim 6, wherein the output time information is calculated by the decoding means as a reciprocal number of the number of frames received per unit time.